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(*b*) the reasons for the action of the Collector; and

(*c*) whether the Collector has taken any steps to remedy these bad effects?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) Representations were recently made to the Government by certain associations and individuals in Malabar alleging that the Collector had refused permission under section 3 (2) of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act wholesale to the timber operators in that district under the 'selection felling method' and that the timber economy of North Malabar had consequently been affected by such orders. The Government have considered these representations and instructed the Collector of Malabar to dispose of the applications in accordance with the rules in the matter, as they stand at present."

* 876 *Q*.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any report from the Collector, Malabar, or complaints from the concerned parties on the refusal of the Collector, Malabar, to issue licence to certain timber merchants to cut down trees from the forests under the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act;

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter;

(*c*) the grounds under which the application for permits to cut down selected woods was rejected;

(*d*) whether the Government have any report on the enforced unemployment caused consequent on the rejection of licences to timber merchants; and

(*e*) if so, whether the same will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) *to* (*e*) Representations were made to the Government by the Malabar Timber Producers' Association and certain other bodies and individuals in Malabar alleging that the Collector of Malabar had refused permission under section 3 (2) of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act wholesale to the timber operators in that district under the 'selection felling method' on the following grounds :—

(1) Most of the trees were comparatively young,

(2) the girth of the majority of the trees was below 10 feet and most of the trees were to grow to that size, and

(3) most of the trees in respect of which permission to cut was applied for were of immature species. It was also represented to the Government that the timber economy

of North Malabar had been affected by such orders. The Government examined the representations. The Government considered that while it was open to the Collector to suggest such addtional provisions as are necessary for the protection of the forests for being embodied in the rules made under the Act, the rules as they stand at the time the applications are received should be adhered to in disposing of the applications. They have accordingly instructed the Collector to dispose of the applications in accordance with the rules, as they stand at present. The Government have not received any report on the enforced unemployment caused consequent on the rejection of licences to timber merchants, except representations to the effect that by such wholesale rejection of permits the timber economy of North Malabar had been affected and that it had resulted in unemployment. There is therefore no such report to be placed on the table of the House.''

* 877 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :— Will the Hon the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many applications for renewal of licence for felling timber were received by the Collector of Malabar in 1954;

(*b*) how many were granted and how many refused; and

(*c*) the number of such applications received and sanctioned in 1952 and 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' (*a*) 262.

'' (*b*) Granted 196.

Refused 66.

	1952.	1953.
'' (c) Number of applications recei ed.	195	164
Number of applications sanctioned.	146	127 ''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' May I know on which date the representations were received and on which date the orders were passed? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' I cannot give the exact date of receipt of the representations. Orders were passed, I think, in about two or three weeks. I can only give a rough idea.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' What was the main contention of the Collector of Malabar in refusing to grant the permits to three or four merchants? What steps do the Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of the Collector with regard to the preservation of the forest wealth in Malabar which is being indiscriminately destroyed by certain categories of privileged merchants due to the defect in the rules? ''